

49370 to 49383—Continued.

49370. *ANANAS SATIVUS* Schult. f. Bromeliaceæ.

Pineapple.

"(No. 266. Tucuru, Alta Vera Paz. January 12, 1920.) Suckers of a variety of pineapple from Tucuru at an altitude of about 3,200 feet. It is known to the few Americans in this region as the 'sugar-loaf' pineapple because of its sweetness. It is described by R. W. Hempstead, through whose courtesy I have obtained these suckers, as broadly oval, large, with white, very juicy, sweet-flavored flesh."

49371. *ANNONA SCLEBODERMA* Safford. Annonaceæ.

"(No. 249a. Tucuru, Alta Vera Paz. January 12, 1920.) *Posh* (Kekchi); Spanish orthography *poz*, sometimes called in English 'hard-shelled custard-apple.' Seeds of a rare species of *Annona* from Chama, on the Rio Chixoy; altitude 950 feet.

"In size of tree and habit of growth this species resembles *Annona reticulata*. In foliage, however, it is quite distinct. The leaves are oblong to oblong-lanceolate, 6 to 9 inches long, $2\frac{1}{4}$ to 3 inches broad, shortly acuminate, coriaceous, deep green and almost glossy above, paler beneath.

"The fruits, which are borne on stout stalks about an inch long, are broadly heart-shaped to round and up to 4 inches in diameter. The surface, which is dull gray-green, differs in character from that of most other *Annonas*; it is divided by prominent ridges into irregularly pentagonal areas. The skin or outer covering is nearly a quarter of an inch thick and coarsely granular in texture. It forms a brittle shell which effectively protects the flesh and makes it possible for the ripe fruit to be handled roughly without injury to the flesh. The latter, which is snow-white and divided into loosely cohering segments each containing a seed the size of a bean, is of remarkably pleasant flavor suggesting that of the sugar-apple (*A. squamosa*), with a dash of lemon. Many *Annonas* are heavily sweet or mawkish; not so the *posh*. It has sufficient acidity (more than the cherimoya) to give it sprightliness, and it never cloy the palate.

"The trees which I have seen at Chama are more productive than the average cherimoya. The species may well be compared to *Annona squamosa* in fruiting habit. Abortive fruits, such as many of those borne by most cherimoya trees, are rarely produced, but there is considerable variation in the size. The average is about 3 inches in diameter.

"This species evidently belongs to the tropical lowlands; hence, in the United States, it is likely to succeed only in southern Florida."

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 40835.

49372. *CHAETOCLOA PANICULIFERA* (Steud.) Hitchc. Poaceæ. Grass.
(*Setaria paniculifera* Fourn.)

"(No. 258a. Tucuru, Alta Vera Paz. January 12, 1920.) *Hotz kor* (Kekchi). Seeds collected near Chama. This plant is found commonly throughout Alta Vera Paz, where it is considered one of the best forage grasses. It is thought to be more nourishing than most other grasses, and both horses and cattle eat it readily in spite of the fact that the leaves are covered with somewhat coarse hairs which it might be expected would prove disagreeable to animals.

"*Hotz kor* never forms pastures or solid stands over large areas, but usually grows on slopes or among scrub, where it forms scattered clumps.